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Comprehensive Review of Infection Control and Management in Dental Implants

Yihan Li[1], Cameron A. Stewart[1], Yoav Finer[1,2*]

[1] Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto, 124 Edward St., Toronto, ON M5G 1G6, Canada.
[2] Institute of Biomedical Engineering, University of Toronto, 164 College St., Toronto, ON M5S 3E2, Canada.

***E-mail** ✉ Yoav.Finer@dentistry.utoronto.ca

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ABSTRACT

It has previously been shown that using dental implants for oral rehabilitation has generally produced favorable short- and long-term outcomes during the last few years. Implant success is hampered by the significant risk of postoperative infection caused by local environmental variables. For implant success, postoperative infection is necessary to be addressed as soon as feasible. We searched Medline, Pubmed, Embase, NCBI, and Cochrane databases to find information about the causes and mechanisms of implant infection, as well as how to manage it. The inclusion criteria included papers about infections and dental implants. Articles that were not specifically about this subject were not included. We also located and used other papers that were cited in this research. Studies that provided information on the kinds of medications and surgical techniques used to treat the illness were given priority. There is an urgent need to improve the way antibiotics are currently prescribed to treat endodontic infections. Given that antibiotics are often overprescribed for the treatment of endodontic infections, educational programs should be implemented to promote better, more responsible use.

Keywords: Dental implants, Early/late failure, Osseointegration, Infection

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Introduction

It has been demonstrated in recent decades that using dental implants for oral rehabilitation produces generally favorable short- and long-term outcomes [1, 2]. Therefore, in some situations that call for restoration or replacement, including bridge abutments, crown support, and the implantation of removable dentures, dental implants are a dependable therapeutic choice. But this method is likely to cause both short-term and long-term problems [3]. Natural teeth have periodontal ligament sling fibers that run perpendicular to each other, but implants have supracrestal connective tissue fibers that run parallel to that. When prosthetic tooth replacements, such as titanium implants, enter the oral cavity, they attach to connective tissues and support the alveolar bone in a very different way than real teeth. As of now, it is uncertain if this offers a more straightforward path for infection than real teeth. In the field of oral implantology, osseointegrated implants are biocompatible titanium rods that are surgically placed in the alveolar bone up to the surface, without a layer of soft tissue in between. The implants are subsequently fitted with restorative and prosthetic components, including crowns, abutments, and other supporting prostheses. The implant and the bone develop a strong relationship through a biological process known as osseointegration. The bacteria that surround teeth are comparable to the microbiome that colonizes implants. All of the organisms linked to healthy teeth populate the infected implants, including *Bacteroides forsythus*, *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, *Campylobacter gracilis*, *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, *Peptostreptococcus micros*, and *Streptococcus intermedius*.

However, since each patient has a unique microbial complex, the desired treatment must focus on the particular illness. An uncommon complication that happens in the month following the implantation of a dental implant, postoperative infections have a frequency ranging from 1.6% to 11.5% [4, 5]. Implant longevity is greatly

impacted by clinical variables, and research into the clinical and histomorphometric definitions of osseointegration is still underway [6]. Failure of an implant means that it must be removed. This occurs when an implant fails to fulfill quantitative measurement standards for implant survival after inspection. Numerous factors are taken into consideration by these criteria, including post-insertion discomfort, symptomatic movement in implants [7], and implants showing more than 0.2 mm of bone loss during the first year of loading. Indeed, dental implants shouldn't hurt. It is crucial to give adequate initial implant stability for osseointegration to succeed as soon as primary healing is achieved, and the absence of discomfort under vertical or horizontal stresses is a preliminary subjective criterion for implant survival. Another crucial factor is the patient's local bone density, which has a significant impact on the stability required for implant success. Although occlusal variables have a role in an implant's health, peri-implantitis and peri-implant mucositis are mostly bacterial infections that share clinical characteristics with periodontal disorders. Mombelli highlighted the similarities between periodontal and peri-implant diseases in 1987 [8]. These similarities pertain to microorganisms. Early research by Berglundh *et al.* [9] claimed that the peri-implant mucosa showed comparable responses in its resistance to bacteria as the sub-gingival sulcus. Peri-implant mucositis is a reversible soft tissue inflammation and the peri-implant counterpart of gingivitis. Soon after, investigations by Alsaadi *et al.* [10] and Nevins and Langer [11] indicated that implants could be successfully used to rehabilitate and restore teeth that had previously suffered periodontitis. In contrast, retrospective studies by Roos-Jansaker *et al.* [12], Evian *et al.* [13], and others, as well as a prospective study by Karoussis *et al.* [14], have shown that the peri-implantitis risk is quadrupled in this instance in patients with a history of periodontitis (odds ratio 4.7; 95% CI 1.0–22). The consensus report of the European workshop on periodontology [15], systematic studies [16], Schou [17], and Klinge *et al.* [18] all concur that patients with a history of periodontitis frequently have peri-implantitis.

We looked through several databases to find information about the causes and mechanisms of implant infection as well as how to manage it.

Materials and Methods

Several keywords were used to search the Mesh for papers that were chosen from the PubMed database: ((“diagnosis and treatment” [Mesh]) AND (“Dental implant infection” [Mesh]) OR (Dental implant and infection Mesh]).

Articles on infections and dental implants met the study's inclusion criteria. Articles that did not have this as their primary subject were not included. Other studies that were cited in these investigations were also located and used.

Results and Discussion

If treatment is not received, infection may lead to implant failure. The most common cause of difficulties during the first healing phase is infection. Fistulas, swelling, suppuration, and early/late mucosal dehiscence are probably signs of implant failure. If these symptoms appear early in the primary healing period, they indicate a much more serious problem than if they appear later in the healing period because of the primary bone healing process disturbance they suggest, which would compromise the implant's successful integration [19, 20]. Pain is rarely evident, and the surrounding tissue may or may not become red and swollen. The infection is referred to as “peri-implant mucositis” as long as the operation has not caused greater bone loss than that which is attributable to the remodeling. Because of this, it is similar to gingivitis in teeth that are naturally present. The loss of alveolar bone surrounding the implant is known as peri-implantitis, and it is often highly defined. Nevertheless, because osseointegration in the implant's bottom has remained healthy, bone loss may continue without the implant exhibiting any movement until osseointegration has completely failed. Antibiotics, such as clindamycin or amoxicillin with potassium clavulanate, should be administered to patients for seven days after the infection starts. When anaerobic bacteria, including some periodontal pathogens, are reduced by systemic and local antibiotics, there should be a concurrent improvement in the aspect [21]. Additionally, mouthrinses with chlorhexidine digluconate ought to be used. Let's say the infection is not controlled by this treatment. The failing implant must then be removed (if the implant has mobility and advanced bone loss), and another antibiotic has to be provided. Particularly when employing direct phase-contrast microscopy and culture, the bacterial profiles identified in peri-implantitis caused by infection and peri-implantitis caused by functional (occlusal) overloading were distinct [22].

It is possible to determine if an implant will be effective over the first two years following its placement. The infection's kind and outcome are likely to depend on the overall condition of the afflicted area along the implant. Because implant failure causes peri-implant bone to be lost quickly, the impact on the denture, bridge, or supported crown is also likely to be larger than that of natural tooth loss [8]. Infections around a failed implant can be quite serious and sometimes necessitate hospitalization [21, 23]. Implant failure has been linked to several traits that are thought to be risk factors [23]. Anatomical or mechanical variables may be involved, such as inadequate alveolar bone height or density or improper implant placement that fails to meet mechanical expectations and cannot be corrected [24, 25]. Poor bone quality and quantity in particular are general variables that are likely to lead to early implant failure since bone repair necessitates a significant biological effort from the skeletal tissues. In general, maintaining the alveolar bone surrounding oral implants is more likely to be successful when the bone quality is high [26]. Smoking is bad for wound healing and will probably make a bone transplant and dental implant less successful. Smokers who had bone grafts or not had greater rates of implant failure and postoperative problems [27].

Conclusion

Under undesirable systemic and local circumstances, the osseointegration process may show increasing marginal bone loss due to a poor implant-to-bone link. Titanium and jawbone are quite distinct contact surface materials that must cohabit; in addition to the general deterioration of systemic health, an unpleasant chronic environment, often of a traumatic or bacterial character, can produce tissue interface discomfort.

Even though implants have a high success rate, they can sometimes malfunction. The absence of primary stability, surgical stress, and perioperative contamination seems to be the main cause of early implant failure. On the other hand, peri-implantitis and occlusal overload are typically linked to late failure. A functioning implant's surrounding soft and hard tissues can become inflamed with peri-implantitis, which causes either progressive or fast bone loss and probably osseointegration loss [28]. The primary factor in the genesis of the condition is bacterial infection. The following clinical infection symptoms indicate an inflammatory response in which the implant's bone support is probably lost or compromised: suppuration, bleeding when gently probed with an instrument, hyperplastic soft tissues, progressive bone loss, and color changes of the marginal peri-implant tissues [29].

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